

## A Resource Management Plan for The Coachella Canal Area

### Where It Is

The portion of the Coachella Canal Area that is covered by the Resource Management Plan (RMP) is within Riverside County, California, and consists of about 30 miles of the canal and 3,990 acres of Bureau of Reclamation lands. The study area is located just north of the Salton Sea and continues north near the communities of Mecca, Thermal, Coachella, and Indio and then extends south near La Quinta and Lake Cahuilla. The Coachella Valley encompasses approximately 200,000 acres under a variety of ownerships.

Approximately 35,000 acres of other Federal lands are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The State of California administers about 5,000 acres. County, city, and private lands make up the remaining 156,000 acres.

### How It Began

The All-American Canal System was authorized under the Boulder Canyon Project Act of December 21, 1928 (45 Statute [Stat.] 1057). The system included the Imperial Diversion Dam and Desilting Works, the 80-mile All-American Canal, the 123-mile Coachella Canal, and associated structures.

The construction of the All-American Canal began in 1934, following the construction of Hoover Dam. The construction of Imperial Dam and Desilting Works began in January 1936 and was completed in July 1938. The first irrigation water was delivered in 1940. The canal was built from August 1938 to

June 1948. Construction was interrupted by World War II, and work stopped from 1942 to 1944. Construction of the Coachella distribution system was initiated in 1948 and completed in 1954. After initial construction, deficiencies were identified in the original delivery system. To correct these deficiencies, a Rehabilitation and Betterment (R&B) Program was undertaken by the Coachella Valley Water District. The R&B Program was authorized under the provisions of the Rehabilitation and Betterment Act of October 7, 1949 (63 Stat. 74), as amended March 3, 1950 (64 Stat. 11). The R&B work began in January 1964 and was essentially complete in 1977. The primary features of the R&B Program were the construction of Lake Cahuilla, Dikes 2 and 4, and Avenue 64 Evacuation Channel, which extends about 6 miles to the Whitewater Storm Channel. An RMP was completed for the Coachella Canal Area in 1993.

### Where We Are Going

The 1993 RMP is being updated to address Reclamation's management and resource responsibilities. The purpose of the RMP is to provide direction for future management decisions according to currently recognized standards of proper land use. The RMP will assist Reclamation in achieving responsible stewardship of the lands associated with the Coachella Canal. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Reclamation will complete an environmental assessment. Study work began in January 2005 and is expected to be completed within 18 months. During this time, Reclamation

will conduct public involvement activities to assure the opportunity for full public participation in the planning process.

## How You Can Help

To develop a meaningful, workable plan for the Coachella Canal Area, we need your interest and input. Reclamation will host several open houses to discuss the preferred RMP alternative with you and hear your concerns for the future of the Coachella Canal Area. The open house schedule follows:

### **Monday, May 16, 2006**

Coachella Community Center  
84-620 Bagdad Street  
Coachella, California  
5 – 7 p.m. Open House  
6 p.m. Presentation

### **Tuesday, May 17, 2006**

Indio Community Center  
45-871 Clinton Street  
Indio, California  
2 – 4 p.m. Open House  
3 p.m. Presentation

### **Wednesday, May 18, 2006**

La Quinta Community Center  
77-865 Avenida Montezuma  
La Quinta, California  
1 – 3 p.m. Open House  
2 p.m. Presentation

All open house facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids to Peggy Haren, as shown below. The hearing impaired may contact Ms. Haren at the number below via a toll-free TTY relay at 1-800-833-6388.

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas at one of the open houses. All comments are due no later than June 2, 2006.

If you are unable to attend and you would like to be on the mailing list, provide a comment, or request a copy of the draft document, you may contact:

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Phone (303) 445-2711  
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or

Peggy Haren, Study Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation (YAO-7120)  
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7301 Calle Agua Sallada  
Yuma AZ 85364  
Phone (928) 343-8547  
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pharen@lc.usbr.gov

**If we do not hear from you or you do not attend an open house, we will remove your name from this mailing list.**

Additional information about the Coachella Canal Area RMP/EA and an online comment form are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/yuma/>.